Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

      1. (previously presented) A method for securely communicating financial information, comprising:

      receiving over an electronic computer network a message communicated according to a field delimited communication protocol pursuant to which the message comprises a financial data field and a field value corresponding to the financial data field and the message has a standard, publicly-known meaning within the field delimited communication protocol;

      and interpreting said message according to a coded meaning defined to be different than the standard, publicly-known meaning within the field delimited communication protocol.

      2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the field delimited communication protocol is the Financial Information Exchange (FIX) Protocol, or a protocol derived therefrom.

      3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the message communicates a number of shares ordered or offered.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the financial data field is a FIX tag 38 entry.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the coded meaning communicates a number of shares of a financial transaction to which the message pertains that is different than the standard, publicly-known meaning within the field delimited communication protocol.

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the message corresponds to an Indication of Interest (IOI) for a number of shares.

7. (previously presented) A method for securely communicating financial information, comprising:

encoding a message communicated in a field delimited communication protocol pursuant to which the message comprises a financial data field and a field value corresponding to the financial data field, in which the message has a standard, publicly-known meaning within the field delimited communication protocol in which the message would ordinarily be interpreted to have a standard, publicly-known meaning, to have a meaning different from the standard, publicly-known meaning; and

transmitting said encoded message over an electronic computer network.

8. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein the field delimited communication protocol is the Financial Information Exchange (FIX) Protocol, or a protocol derived therefrom.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the message represents a number of shares ordered or offered.

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the financial data field is a FIX tag 38 entry.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the message corresponds to a number of shares of a financial transaction to which the message pertains.

12. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein the encoded message corresponds to an Indication of Interest (IOI) for a number of shares.

13. (previously presented) A method for securely communicating financial information, comprising:

receiving over a first electronic computer network a first message, said first message in a field delimited communication protocol pursuant to which the first message

comprises a first financial data field and a first field value corresponding to the first financial data field, in which the message has a standard, publicly-known meaning within the field delimited communication protocol;

transmitting over a second electronic computer network, a second message, said second message in the field delimited communication protocol comprising a second financial data field and a second field value corresponding to the second financial data field, in which the second message has a standard, publicly-known meaning within the field delimited communication protocol; and

at least one of said first and second messages being encoded, wherein each encoded message is intended to have a meaning different from the standard, publicly-known meaning within the field delimited communication protocol,

wherein, said first and second electronic network and said first and second messages are not necessarily distinct.

14. (original) The method of claim 13, wherein the field delimited communication protocol is the Financial Information Exchange (FIX) Protocol, or a protocol derived therefrom.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the first and second financial data fields are order value fields.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the first and second messages corresponds to a number of shares of a financial transaction to which the messages pertain.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the first message corresponds to an Indication of Interest (IOI) for a number of shares.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 13, further comprising:

determining whether corresponding entries first field value and the second field value match; and

if the match is successful, transmitting a notification to one or more broker/dealers.

19. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein the transmitted notification is not encoded.

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein said first message is encoded, and wherein said transmitted notification is made to a plurality of receivers, further comprising:

receiving from a receiver a reply to said second message; and

determining whether the first field value and the second field value match.

21. (original) The method of claim 20, wherein if the match is successful, transmitting a notification to one or more broker dealers.

22. (previously presented) An apparatus for securely communicating financial information, comprising:

a receiver for receiving over an electronic computer network a

message communicated in a field delimited communication protocol pursuant to which the message comprises a financial data field and a field value corresponding to the financial data field and the message has a standard, publicly-known meaning under the field delimited communication protocol, wherein the message is coded to have a meaning different than the standard, publicly-known meaning under the field delimited communication protocol; and

an interpreter for interpreting the message to have a meaning different from the standard, publicly-known meaning under the field delimited communication protocol.

23. (previously presented) An apparatus for securely communicating financial information, comprising:

an encoder for encoding a message in a field delimited communication protocol pursuant to which the message comprises a financial data field and a field value

corresponding to the field of financial data and has a standard, publicly-known meaning under the field delimited communication protocol, wherein said encoded message is intended to have a meaning different from the standard, publicly-known meaning for entries in said specified field; and

a transmitter for transmitting said encoded message over an electronic computer network.

24. (previously presented) An apparatus for securely communicating financial information, comprising:

a receiver for receiving over a first electronic computer network a first message, said first message communicated in a field delimited communication protocol pursuant to which the message comprises a first financial data field and a first field value corresponding to the financial data field and has a standard, publicly-known meaning under the field delimited communication protocol;

a transmitter for transmitting over a second electronic computer network, a second message, said second message communicated in the field delimited communication protocol pursuant to which the message comprises a first financial data field and a first field value corresponding to the field of financial data and has a standard, publicly-known meaning under the field delimited communication protocol; and

at least one of said first and second messages being encoded, wherein each encoded message is intended to have a meaning different from the standard, publicly-known meaning under the field delimited communication protocol;

wherein, said first and second electronic network, said first and second entries, and said first and second messages are not necessarily distinct.